

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ACTION: CIRCULAR

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Castro/Communist forces in Latin America responded to US actions against Soviet build-up in Cuba with sluggishness and timidity. All were caught off guard by speed and determination US action and immediate OAS support and encountered difficulty in organizing and mounting popular protests. Even in countries where sufficient organization was achieved to allow for planning, Communists were unable to move from plans to action until after crisis had begun to ease.

Street demonstrations were usually dispersed before they were able to gather momentum. The only significant damage to property so far, the oil field bombing in Venezuela, was surely sabotage and not accompanied by mass demonstrations.

Only in Argentina, Bolivia, and Uruguay have significantly large popular demonstrations been mounted. Minor protest meetings, student marches and

~~ATTEMPTS~~ bombings were reported from other countries, but have been regarded

~~—SMITH BUNDY~~ as failures in terms of generating public opposition to US action. Turnout has been lower than at time of Punta del Este last January, and far below during Bay of Pigs invasion.

~~—POPE STANLEY~~ ~~—HORNSTEIN~~ ~~—JOHNSON~~ ~~—KAVANAGH~~ ARGENTINA - Several smoke bombs thrown at US-sponsored exhibit in Buenos Aires

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Buenos Aires on October 24, caused little damage and only minor injury to spectators. Subsequent bombings aimed at home of cultural officer of Embassy. On October 25-26, pro-Castro demonstrations mounted with some success and attacks on private property increased. Actual damage slight, but strong police measures required before crowds of students and agitators broken-up. Smaller, widely scattered incidents reported throughout country, all handled readily by local ~~XXX~~ authorities.

BOLIVIA - Five persons killed and 27 injured during demonstrations October 26. Mobs burned both Russian and US flags. Pro-Castro groups carried guns, and demonstrations were brought under control by police only with considerable difficulty. Government placed Armed Forces in direct control La Paz. Unusual, however, was strong display of anti-Castro pro-US sentiment, where demonstrations usually consist merely ^{of} confrontation between police and ~~xx~~ extreme leftists.

URUGUAY - Peaceful demonstrations organized Montevideo on 25th, involving some 7000 students and workers, but these were considered a failure by Communist Party leaders themselves. On ^{29th} ~~XX~~ agitators promoted more violent demonstrations, which included burning American flag and stoning Uruguayan Government House.

VE~~N~~EZUELA - Early incidents principally half-dozen pipe bombings, including one in front branch of National City Bank and another in alley near Embassy Chancery. Anti-US violence began in earnest on Friday, when small group armed with ^{Machine} ~~Machine~~ guns attacked warehouse Goodyear Tires and burned stack of tires. The dynamiting of four Creole Petroleum power substations temporarily reduced the country's total oil output by one-sixth. One member of group responsible for the sabotage was killed in the explosion, and two others who were injured were captured by police.

PERU

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PERU - On twenty-fourth small bomb exploded near Embassy residence, not connected to any popular demonstration. Higher level of violence reached Arequipa the following day, as pro-Castro demonstrators clashed with police and some injuries were reported.

ECUADOR - Weak Communist-planned demonstrations were easily put down in Quito on twenty-fifth, and others failed to get started at all. In Guayaquil demonstration by pro-Castro URJE resulted some damage and police casualties.

BRAZIL - Minor public disturbances were reported in a few areas.

CHILE - Several small student demonstrations and a few minor bombing incidents. Police action effectively held these in check. Many student and labor groups pointedly refused take part in a pro-Cuba rally held in Santiago on Sunday, and attendance fell far short of that anticipated by leftist agitators.

MEXICO - Minor demonstrations were organized by pro-Communist elements among students at the National Autonomous University on twenty-fourth with only moderate attendance.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - Only minor disturbances, easily contained by the Government.

Other countries: Insignificant reactions.

End

ACTION: ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

INFO: POLAD /CINCLANT

RUSK

POLAD/CINCARIS

USIA

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